

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, June 1. 1708.

HE that undertakes to instruct a Nation, ought to be very well fortified against publick Reproach. In this wise Age Men are apt to be ill-natur'd, when you pretend to inform them, and the Wisdom they think they have, qualifies them immediately to think they want no more.

However this may happen, Gentlemen of *Britain*, here is one that thinks himself oblig'd to venture to speak a *Word in Season* to you; he hopes you that have no need of it, or that think you

have none, for that is almost the same thing, will bear with it, for the sake of some, that having less Wit than you, may want it.

He professes himself convinc'd, that what he shall say is not only Truth, but useful Truth, and as such, he hopes you will improve it to your own Advantage; but whether you will or no, he acknowledges himself unable to refrain in meer Respect to your Welfare, and mov'd with a Sense of your Danger.

And he is perswaded, that what he shall say now, will have so much Force with

with it, so evidently clear up his sincere Intentions for your Good, and be so convincing to all your Judgments, that he hopes for a more favourable Reception now than ever.

The Title of his Paper is like a Man crying Fire in your Streets, upon the first Alarm of which, your immediate Inquiry is, WHERE, WHERE? When a Stranger comes among you, and cries out, Danger! Danger! Britain in Danger! He ought to be furnished to answer your immediate Enquiry, from whence? What is it? And what are we in Danger from?

Let me therefore first examine these Dangers; for the Disease must be known before the Cure be prescribed——The Dangers to be hinted at may be divided into these Three. *Viz.*

- I. *Dangers past.*
- II. *Dangers present.*
- III. *Dangers to come.*

I. By *Dangers past*, is to be understood, *such as seem to be past*; for if they were really past, they would be no Dangers——: And yet I shall not say much to put you upon the Uneasiness of expecting their Return.

The *French* have made an Attempt upon you, and this is meant by the *Dangers past*: It is not the Design of this Paper to put you in Fear of their Return, but neither do I think you ought to try whether you can tempt them to come again or no.

Pray, Gentlemen, will you then look back to what prompted them to come here before; we are told of Invitations and Personal Encouragements; I have

nothing to say to those things, a Man can hardly imagine any Man so cruel to his Country, as to call in the *French*; if any such thing was, I believe, all honest Men will joyn in this *Wish*, that it may be detested, and the Persons brought to Justice: But till it is proved, I say nothing but *Curra Lex*, the Government is Fishing for it, let it go as it will.

But shall I tell you, Friends and Country Men, very plainly, you have all been Guilty of inviting over the *French*; not that I am going to indict you all now *Lese Majestatis*, and call you all Traitors by Craft; but take me right, Gentlemen, I must say it again, You have all been Guilty of inviting over the *French*.

To explain my self and prove this, I shall briefly name Particulars.

1. Your naked Posture as to Defence has been a Call to your Enemies, who, not doubting of a strong Party among you, must needs think the Strength you have had, was a most contemptible thing to prevent a Surprise: Your unfortified Coast, your unfurnished Forts, your few Forces, your unsettled or unserviceable Militia, these have all been strong Invitations to the *French*.

But as these are the Effects of your yet Settling and Unsettled Infant State as to the Union, so the Government seems vigorous in their Application to restore you in those Cases to a State of Defence, and therefore this can be no Part of the Danger of inviting the Enemy to Return. I wish the next Case stood as fair for a Cure.

2. The Number and Armed Posture of your Indwelling Enemies, from whom such an Invasion as we are talking of is made but too feasible: But of this hereafter.

3. And which is the main Point, your Divisions at Home; your Party Divisions, your Religious Divisions, your *Jacobite* Divisions, your Popish Divisions, and at last, your Union Divisions, *an unhappy Word that is!* These were, and still are the Invitations to a Foreign Enemy; these brought him Over, and these alone can endanger his Return,

In these things I place the Dangers of *Britain* past: I shall recapitulate them again presently; but I first pass on to the Generals; which brings me to,

II. The Second Head, *viz.* Of Dangers present.

These arise from a miserable Dearth of Charity and Neighbourhood, and a strange Contagion of Strife and Disaffection to one another, which is spread among us, and which threaten this Country with innumerable Mischiefs and Disorders. And this contains the Third Head, *viz.* Of Dangers to come. You will pardon me for joining the Causes and the Consequences together.

I have always been a Foreteller of Good from the Union, and have put you in hopes of much upon that Head; but, Gentlemen, pray remember this, and bear Witness, I never told *Britain* on either hand, North or South, that the Union would do you good *whether you*

would or no; that in spite of Jarring Parties, Ambitious Interests, Unnatural Strifes, and the spreading Poisons of Envy, Party Malice, and the like, the Union would make you happy.

In short, shall I tell you a new, but plain and positive Truth, and I lay it down as a *Thesis*, which I shall enlarge upon a little hereafter: If you will not add Peace to Union, it is impossible you should reap any Advantage by it; if you will not joyn mutual Assistance, and bring an uniting Temper and the Union together, even GOD Himself, I speak it with an awful Concern for you, cannot without working something miraculous, and out of the ordinary Course of his Providence, make the Union Effectual to you; But I shall speak further to this in my next.

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ALL those, who have Debts due from King William, King James, and King Charles, since the Restauration, for which no Provision hath been hitherto made by the Government, are desir'd to meet at the *Star Coffee-house* in *Downing Street* near *White-hall*, any *Tuesday* or *Friday* in the *Afternoon*; where Preparation is made for Proposals to the ensuing Parliament, of such Funds as will no way Clogg her Majesty's Revenues nor burthen the Subject by any Tax; but will on the Contrary be very grateful to her most Sacred Majesty; And it is hoped, that what is design'd to be offer'd will be satisfactory to the Parliament. It is therefore expedient, that the Parties concern'd do ascertain their Accounts, in the Proper Offices, that the Amountant may be abstracted, to be laid before the Parliament, who will be fully satisfied both of the Quantity and Quality, before they make any Proceedings. To the end therefor, the at all Matters may be in Readiness, this Meeting is appointed, that nothing might be transacted but with general Approbation and Consent. And whereas several of the Persons concern'd have met, they do thankfully declare their entire Satisfaction in the Care that is taken by the Government, for the Debts of King William (of Blessed Memory) and are contented, that, if they are not otherways provided for, King William's Debts may take the first place in these Funds; and the Debts all along that were last contracted may be first paid, and the first last.

But whereas some unconcern'd Persons may make Objections against us, that it is an unfit time to propose to pay old Debts in the midst of such an expensive War; it is answer'd, that this is not propos'd any other way, but without clogging her Majesty's Revenues, or taxing the Subject; and if these Debts can be thus paid, and a great many distressed People reliev'd, it will be for the Glory of her Sacred Majesty to pay the Debts of three Reigns in the midst of such a chargeable War, and it will bring Credit to the Nation, and make us formidable to our Enemies, who cannot buy Bread for their Soldiers, when we pay old Debts.

And that we may find Favour with the Parliament, we shall also provide a good Fund for the War that shall amount to twice as much as these Debts, over and above our own Funds.

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